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CONTEMPORARY ECHOES

A "DANIELS" COME TO JUDGMENT

(From the Boston Advertiser.)

One of the best remembered stories of the Arabian Nights is that which tells of the wicked old man who fastened himself on the shoulders of his victim, who had to be carried wherever the latter went. It looks very much as if Josephus Daniels had become the "Old Man of the Sea" of the present Administration.

Colonel Harvey, in his recently printed word of warning to his good friend, the President, declared that it looks as if the latter must soon get rid of his Secretary of the Navy, unless he wants Mr. Daniels to become a rather unpleasant and very damaging campaign issue. The advice is good; but Mr. Wilson's closest associates declare that he does not care for advice; that he solves his own problems in solitary meditation, regardless of what his friends may say. And it looks very much as if the President had determined not to ask the Secretary of the Navy to quit the Cabinet, although naturally he would be greatly relieved in mind if the Secretary were to go, of his own volition.

But Mr. Daniels shows no inclination to go. He is the one man in this country who cannot see whither his incompetence, his unwisdom and his utter inability to get on with his Admirals, have finally brought the navy. Worse than this, the Secretary has grossly offended the public's idea of fair play. He has had free say about his subordinates—they declare much of what he has said to be untrue—and yet he refuses to allow these men to reply publicly to his unfair comments on their acts and policies.

With all deference to the sincerity and the earnestness of President Wilson, may it not be said that he is at fault in talking preparedness so long as he persists in keeping Mr. Daniels in the Cabinet? No amount of talk can reconcile the two attitudes.

(From the Wheeling Intelligencer)

It is doubtful if any heed will be paid by the President to the outspoken warning given by the editor of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, in the current issue of that publication. The significance of this warning lies in the close relations that existed between the editor of THE REVIEW, Colonel George Harvey, and Mr. Wilson. The President is warned to get rid of his incompetent Secretary of the Navy at once, unless he wants deliberately to court defeat in the election in November. The most becoming thing Bryan ever did was to retire from an office he felt himself unfitted for and uncomfortable in, which makes the sticking of Daniels all the more reprehensible. Colonel Harvey, in his frank advice, intimates that the Administration can never

withstand the disclosure, certain to come sooner or later, of our naval administration. The full story of Secretary Daniels' arbitrary and shamefully unjust acts designed to discredit faithful officers, which have resulted in the partial demoralization and the utter disheartenment of the service, remains to be told.

In addition to Colonel Harvey's indictment, we have Secretary Daniels' extraordinary performance before the House Committee on Naval Affairs recently, and his malicious reflections on Admiral Fiske. It is pretty well known that the Secretary of the Navy, instead of listening to the men who have spent their lives in studying our national defense, has insisted on substituting his own pet vagaries and fads. In answer to the remonstrances of patriotic officers, he has said that if he were going to let our American Admirals have their own way he "might as well go home." Although he did not know it, that is the one sensible idea that Josephus ever had. But the trouble has been that he never went.

(From the Albany Knickerbocker Press)

Colonel George Harvey, discoverer of Dr. Woodrow Wilson, and chief promulgator of the doctor's virtues until he was admonished by the discovered person that withdrawal of support would be worth more than assistance, has cast a few shells from the sixteen-inch rifles of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW in the direction of Fort Daniels—just to find the range. Colonel Harvey uses such unparliamentary nouns, adverbs and adjectives, in a brief discussion of our first lord of the admiralty, as these:

shifty	suppression
deceit	disingenuous
disagreeable	delude
arbitrary	shamefully
unjust	demoralization
disheartenment	ignorance
distortion	brazenly
emasculated	subterfuge
deception	inadequate
inaccurately	

To these unhandsome parts of speech, Colonel Harvey adds the assurance that the term "a daniels" is now familiar throughout the navy as synonymous with a shorter and, if conceivable, uglier word.

(From the Rochester Post-Express)

"A Pottering Politician." This is the description given to Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, by Colonel George Harvey, "the original Wilson man," in his latest issue of his magazine, THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. Colonel Harvey's article is a scathing analysis of the Tar Heel statesman, in which he convicts him, out of his own mouth and by the cumulative testimony which naval officers have given recently before the Naval Committee of the House, of making misleading statements about the navy. Referring to the Wilson-Daniels naval program, Colonel Harvey says: "His program is not a program. It is a sham, designed expressly to serve present political purposes while carrying the burden of expenditures forward to future years."

After convicting Daniels, not only of making misleading statements on almost every subject with which he has to deal, but of making such statements deliberately, Colonel Harvey explains that "a daniels" has come into common use in the navy as synonymous with "a shorter and, if conceivable, uglier word."

(From the Parkersburg, W. Va., News)

Nowadays, when one wishes to apply to some untruthful person a designation expressing the unreliability of the person in question, he need not select "prevaricator," "falsifier," "disciple of Ananias," or any of those polite and tongue-twisting phrases. With the greatest propriety he may choose a shorter and uglier word, the same being "daniels."

For that word, in the vernacular of the United States Navy, has become a title of opprobrium, and the jolly jack tar to whom it is applied has cause for inciting personal violence. The why and how of the evolution of this word is explained by Colonel George Harvey, "the original Wilson man," in the most recent issue of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*.

After completing probably the most complete scorching ever given to a favorite subject, Colonel Harvey concludes: "There for the present we shall leave the Secretary of the Navy, drearily hoping and faithfully promising to ignore other phases, no less savory, of his maladministration, unless finally confronted by the dread certainty that

"A vote for Wilson is a vote for Daniels."

(From the Rutland Herald)

Among the journalistic Jeremiahs of the day, none wields a more trenchant and searing pen than Colonel George Harvey, former Vermonter and now publisher of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, one of the few remaining critical magazines which retain the snap and vigor of newspaper timeliness and phraseology.

Colonel Harvey calls Secretary Josephus Daniels of the Navy Department a "pottering politician." He declares the Secretary's statements before important Congressional committees have been proven untruthful in almost every material respect.

Despite the somewhat frantic efforts of the Administration's champions to divert the storm of popular condemnation from Daniels, it is plain enough to most people that his appointment was not only a mistake, but his retention is one of the millstones which will assuredly drag the Wilson Administration down.

"A vote for Wilson is a vote for Daniels," says Colonel Harvey. Can any purely personal popularity survive such a terrific handicap?

(From the Boston Herald)

The hardest thing for George Harvey to swallow at present is: "a vote for Wilson will be a vote for Daniels."

A DISPASSIONATE VIEW

(From the Grand Rapids News)

"See straight. Think straight. Then, in consequence, as a matter of course, act straight. These are urgent needs of the time, for the Govern-

ment; and in this country as we so often boast and too often fail to realize and to practice, the Government means the whole people. Never, probably, in all our history, have these needs been greater than they now are. That is partly because of the transcendent importance of the issues confronting us. It is also partly because of the exceptional and unprecedented efforts which are being persistently made to befog those issues and to mislead the popular and official mind."

Colonel George Harvey, editor of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, has furnished many gems of thought to the American people. He also enjoys the distinction of having picked more Presidential winners than any man of this time, but we doubt that he ever in one paragraph has stated a situation more plainly or brought home a greater truth.

Pour it all in the melting pot, and after it's refined, analyze the result. Try to take the view our children and grandchildren will take 50 years from now. Look straight. What will they care about our Mexican policy or the sugar tax or the treasury during a time when half the world tried to drag us into a war?

As stated in this column a few days ago, no one man is responsible for the will of the American people. But one man may be responsible for carrying out that will.

If the Democratic party is wise, it will change its platform to rectify some of its traditional mistakes and cash in on the strength of its leader. We cannot hope for this, however, if we are to judge by the political history of the past. It's too simple to be true.

But it would be a relief to welcome a President and Administration born of straight sight, straight thought and consequent straight action.